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Wildlife

IN NORTH CAROLINA

TEN CENTS

JULY 1949

"Aw, Gee, Mister! Give a Fellow a Break!"

Photo Courtesy Montana Fish and Game Commission

LEAVE THEM IN THE WOODS

Throughout the summer many people will find the young of various wild animals in the woods apparently abandoned by their mothers. Only rarely do animals abandon their young, and only rarely are orphans found.

Since there are no open seasons on game species during the summer, it is unlawful for anyone to take young animals to keep as pets.

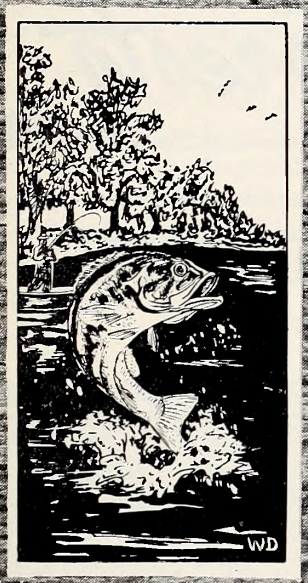
Give young animals a break: leave them in the woods so that their parents can take care of them.

Wildlife IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Official Publication of The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh

A monthly magazine devoted to the protection and restoration of our Wildlife Resources and to the improvement of hunting and fishing in North Carolina

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
W. KERR SCOTT
Governor



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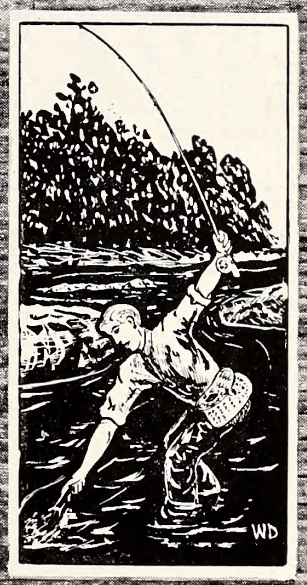

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COVER

We are indebted to Bill Sharpe of the State News Bureau for this month's cover picture. It was selected from among many bautiful color photos in the News Bureau's files. The scene and setting is the Pasquotank River near Elizabeth City. Next month we will have another of Artist Win Donat's color paintings.

★ ★ ★

Wildlife in North Carolina recognizes the need for close cooperation between State and Federal conservation agencies and the people who hunt and fish—to bring about a restoration of our renewable resources. The Editor gratefully receives for publication all news itms, articles, photographs, and other material dealing with the various activities which combine to make North Carolina a better state for hunting and fishing. Full credit is given for all material published.

★ ★ ★

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★ ★ ★

This item came in too late to be included in the "North Carolina Sportsman" section, so we will put it here: We received a letter from Mr. Roland McClamroch of Chapel Hill, who is the State President of the N. C. Wildlife Federation. The letter reads, in part, "The Orange County Wildlife Club is holding a Sports Day at Hogan's Lake three miles west of Chapel Hill, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Saturday July 16. There will be trap shooting, small-bore rifle shooting, bait and fly casting contests for all of which prizes will be awarded, also gate prizes. The event will be followed by a barbecue. Everyone is invited."

All of which sounds like fun—and maybe a picture story for this magazine.

Rod Amundson, *Editor*

LET'S LEARN ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE

The Sixth of a Series on Game Birds and Game Mammals of North Carolina

THE BLACK BEAR

By Rod Amundson

Photos Courtesy U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

HISTORY

BEARS roamed the North American continent long before human beings migrated in from Asia, and since the first appearance of men in the New World there has been a constant struggle between mankind and bears. With minor exceptions bears have been the losers. In early days bears were found throughout the United States, but at present fourteen states do not have any bears at all. They were once extremely abundant along the Atlantic states, but have disappeared from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Delaware, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, with the exception of a few specimens in zoos and itinerant sideshows.

Altogether, there are probably not more than 200,000 black bears in the entire country, a small population indeed compared with more than two million deer. According to census estimates, North Carolina probably does not have more than 4,200. The constant warfare between men and bears has resulted in the decimation of bear populations, but many states have placed bears on the protected list of big game animals to keep them from becoming extinct. This is particularly true in North Carolina, although provisions are made in the regulations whereby bears may be killed at any time of the year when such action is necessary to the protection of property. Such a concession to land owners in the eastern part of the state is particularly necessary where bears frequently become destructive.

DESCRIPTION

It is no more necessary to give a detailed description of a black bear to a North Carolinian than it is to describe the taste of black-eyed peas or collards. It might be worthwhile, however, to point out certain differences between the black bear and other species of bears found in this country. The black bear is the smallest of American bears, seldom attaining a length greater than five feet or a weight in excess of 500 pounds. North Carolina has produced a number of larger specimens, particularly in the Smoky Mountains where 600-pounders have been taken.

There are a number of color variations in the black bear tribe, ranging from black to brown, to gray or gray-blue. The North Carolina bears, however, are consistently black in color, and may be decorated with a small white patch of hair on the chest. Old specimens may become grizzled about the flanks and muzzle, but there are no records of any marked color variations.

BEHAVIOR

Black bears are essentially solitary animals. Only rarely are several seen together, and groups of bears usually consist of a mother and her cubs. There was an interesting occurrence in North Carolina of bears literally flocking together. William Hamnett, project leader of the Wildlife Resources Commission's state-wide game inventory, describes the occurrence thus:

"There happened to be a mast failure in the fall and winter of 1946 in the western part of the state, and the bears had to come down out of the mountains to seek food in the valleys. This resulted in concentrations of bears in fields and orchards. Local residents were convinced that bears had suddenly

become numerous, and a heavy kill of bears took place. Fortunately, there was a good crop of mast the following year, and the bears were enabled to remain in their regular habitat, and thus did not become exterminated.

"During the migration of bears to the valleys, however, as many as 17 to 25 were slaughtered in the vicinity of small mountain apple orchards."

Bears are a hibernating species, but there is no record of hibernation in North Carolina, and black bears have been observed active through the entire year. The shambling gait of black bears gives them the appearance of awkwardness, but the appearance is deceptive indeed. They are extremely swift runners, and can handle themselves skillfully at tree climbing.

A Black bear and her cubs take the sun in an opening in a forest.

Although definitely non-social animals, black bears seem to have some regard for the presence of other members of the species. An interesting phenomenon sometimes referred to as "tree barking" takes place in bear habitat. Woodsmen have found smooth-bark trees scored with a series of claw scars which indicate the bears have a habit of standing on their hind legs and marking trees as far up on the trunk as their front legs will reach. Many people believe that individual bears measure their growth by the distance their claw marks reach up the trunk of the tree. Others suggest that the tree trunk clawing activity is carried on by male bears who display their growth and physical development by clawing the bark to the extent of their reach and challenge other males to equal or exceed their accomplishment.

Ordinarily, black bears are shy, inoffensive animals, but when wounded or brought to bay by dogs, they are among the most ferocious fighters. Females with cubs become pugnacious, and may attack intruders without hesitation.

The eyesight of the black bear is poor, but this handicap is compensated for by very acute senses of smell and hearing. Hunters who take bears by stalking invariably work upwind as quietly as possible. A snapping twig or the brush of branches and leaves against hunting clothes are sufficient to send the quarry off on a mad race for security.

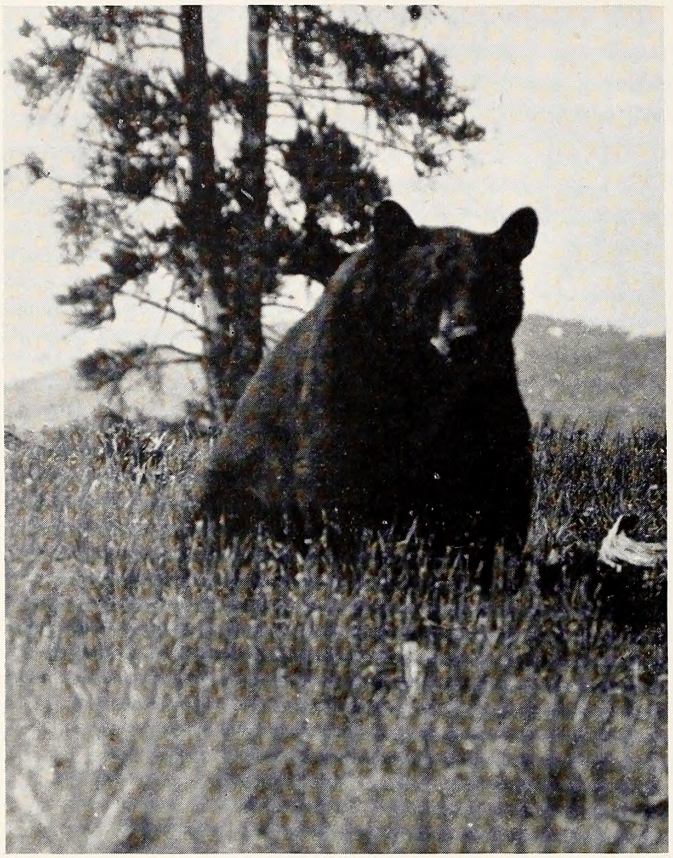
BREEDING HABITS

According to Seton, black bears are not born until the mother reaches her fourth birthday. The gestation period is about seven months. In northern climates, the cubs are born during hibernation. North Carolina cubs are usually born in late winter in rhododendron slicks, mountain caves, or other places inaccessible to intruders. The young are born blind, helpless, and almost hairless. Where hibernation occurs, they alternately sleep and suckle during the remainder of the mother's hibernation period. In North Carolina the cubs are born during the relatively inactive period corresponding to, but not identical with, hibernation. The mother and cubs may remain in the nest for several weeks until the young are old enough and strong enough to follow their parent about the woods.

Other than to sire the young, male bears have little or nothing to do with their progeny. A single male may father several litters of cubs in a given range and remain oblivious of their existence.

Cubs usually come in pairs, although three are common and four unusual. They weigh about half a pound at birth, less than the weight of a newborn porcupine. As they grow and develop, they become extremely playful and "cute." As a result of these characteristics, cubs frequently are taken away from their mothers, often at the cost of the mother's life, and kept as pets by well-meaning but misguided persons. Such activity, in North Carolina, is strictly illegal, and persons caught with cubs

Bears are rarely seen in groups except in the case of mother bears and their cubs.



This big black bear probably weighs as much as 600 pounds. Bears are relatively shy animals, but when wounded or brought to bay, they are ferocious fighters.

in their possession are prosecuted for unlawful possession of game animals.

Although cubs become affectionate and playful pets, they frequently become dangerous on reaching maturity. Their unlawful owners are then faced with the problem of disposal. Frequently the cubs are turned over to such zoos as have need for them, or, far worse, are sold to a roadside purveyor of gasoline and barbecue to spend the rest of their days in pathetic captivity to lure cash customers into their owner's business establishment. It is difficult to understand how intelligent human beings can witness the spectacle of a mangy, bedraggled, broken-spirited bear in a roadside cage without feeling an irresistible urge to set the pathetic captive free. No matter how well fed and cared for, wild animals were intended to remain wild.

FOOD HABITS

Like many wildlife species, the food habits of the black bear get him into a great deal of difficulty. The physical makeup of the bear, especially the dental structure, classes him as a carnivore. In practice, however, bears are omnivorous. Their food ranges from nuts, fruits, berries and grasses to livestock, carion, and honey. They eat enormous quantities of worms, grubs, and insects of any kind. They have been known to take fish, dig up hibernating rodents, pillage mouse nests and rob birds' nests.

Several feeding habits of the black bear have caused the species a great deal of trouble. Sometimes bears stray from their preferred diet of vegetation and invade farmyards and pastures to take young livestock. Needless to say, farmers are not appreciative of such diet. Bears kill calves, lambs, and pigs by swift blows with their paws, rather than by hugging, as is so commonly believed. Ordinarily, however, bears prefer a less harmful diet, and seldom take to raiding flocks and herds unless driven by hunger, or by accident.

Bee-keepers of Eastern North Carolina have little love for black bears. Bears will endure no end of stinging by enraged bees in order to secure a belly full of honey. They wreck havoc with hives, smashing commercial hives into splinters, and committing

In their northern habitat black bears hibernate during the coldest part of the winter. During this time the young are born. There is no evidence that bears hibernate in North Carolina.

mayhem with any type of barricade devised to protect the hives. Bee-keepers are learning to protect their hives by placing them at the top of poles high enough and strong enough to discourage the most crafty bear. Barbed wire entanglements and electrically charged fences have proven futile.

Bears are fond of green corn. So fond, that a family of bears will not only consume and destroy bushels of green corn in a single night's affray, but will then indulge in an orgy of rolling and wallowing among the rows of corn, flattening hundreds of stalks to the ground. Others are known to pick armfuls of corn and carry it into the woods. Such behavior does not give the black bear a reputable name among farmers.

Where raids on beehives and cornfields occur, especially in eastern counties, special permission is granted to farmers to track down the culprits immediately and destroy them. The struggle between men and bears still goes on, even in this modern day.

ENEMIES

Aside from man, the enemy of all wild creatures, bears have almost no enemies, other than inconsequential parasites and possibly disease. A full grown bear can defend himself against all comers, and mother bears do an excellent job of protecting their young.

In regions where porcupines occur, bears have met death through interfering with these quilled rodents. Bears take a swipe at a porcupine with their paw, thus getting it thoroughly impregnated with sharp quills. Maddened by the pain, the bear then bites the porcupine, with the result that he gets the roof of his mouth full of quills. This may result in death by infection or starvation.

MANAGEMENT

Although there is much to condemn bears, it would be tragic indeed to have them eliminated from the list of North Carolina wildlife. They do cause damage to crops, livestock, and apiaries, but such damage is not sufficient to condemn the species. Where bears commit depredations, they must be judiciously controlled. Where they are less numerous, and therefore less harmful, they must be protected. The plow, the forest fire, and the cry of "TIMBER" have done much to reduce bear habitat. Those remaining will benefit from practical forestry and judicious harvesting of killable surpluses. Where bears commit damage to property, only the offending individuals should be hunted down and killed. Wholesale slaughter because of a few erring specimens would be a wanton waste of game animals and a tragic crime against nature.

Although awkward and cumbersome in appearance, bears are extremely agile and are adept at climbing trees. They prefer dense thickets and rarely keep to open ground.

HUNTING

Men become addicted to bear hunting just as they do to fox hunting, quail shooting or horse racing. Bears are difficult animals to stalk, and skill and stamina are required of a would-be bear hunter.

Many bears in this state are killed incidentally to other big game hunting especially in eastern counties where both bears and deer are numerous. Ordinarily, however, because of their solitary habits, and their facility for being here today and in the next county tomorrow, bear hunting is a difficult process.

Bear dogs or hounds are frequently used. In some cases hounds get on the trail and follow the bear until it is treed or cornered. The hunters then close in for the kill. Killing a bear at bay, however dangerous a wounded bear may be, is about as sporting and exciting as shooting a fattened hog in a pigpen. Wounded pigs may be dangerous too.

In western counties, hounds are used to chase bears, but the taking of the bear is quite different from executing a cornered animal. As soon as the hounds have picked up a trail, the hunters take stands at strategic points and wait for the fleeing animal to pass by. A fast-moving bear is a difficult target even for an expert, and the bear has a sporting chance of getting away.

Next month's issue will be the first of this series to deal with game birds. Bobwhite quail is the subject for August.

Bears are fond of green corn and sometimes destroy great quantities. This creates a serious management problem.

WATER AND WILDLIFE

By Pat Riley

Principal Engineer, Division of Water Resources and Engineering, Department of Conservation and Development.

NORTH CAROLINA is blessed with an abundance of one of the greatest natural resources in the world. Water not only is a necessity for life itself, but the growth of civilization is dependent upon a bountiful supply. No community can grow beyond its water supply nor can many industries operate without an abundance of water. Several large cities are required to pipe water for many miles to furnish water for their inhabitants. Yet in North Carolina very few people ever give water any thought because water is available at their finger tips to meet all their demands. A button is pressed and the lights come on, a switch is thrown and the wheels of industry begin to turn. No thought is given to the fact that in North Carolina practically all of the electricity is generated by either hydro-power or steam. Water plays a part in almost everything that is done in the present day. It has been said that bread is the staff of life, but equally true is the fact that water is the lifeblood of civilization.

Water is as much a necessity to wildlife as it is to civilization. The first reaction when thinking of the relation between wildlife and water is fishing. Of course fish require good clean water, but so do all other members of wildlife. Without water for drinking purposes the deer, turkey, opossum and many other animals would not long exist. Vegetation would soon die without water and the deer and turkey would perish for the lack of food. The river banks in North Carolina are usually covered with a thick growth of vegetation which will furnish cover for breeding purposes, cover for protection against enemies and food for all animals.

In the early stages of development of civilization in this country there was an abundance of good, clean water to be had in all our streams. With the increasing growth of population, the rise of urban centers, and the rapid increase in the number of industries the rivers have suffered greatly. Forests have been cut away or destroyed by fire, and fields that were once covered with heavy growth have been replaced by plowed fields or buildings. Rain falling on these places runs off rapidly and has no chance to perculate into the soil to replenish the ground water and thus feed the streams during dry seasons, it also carries large quantities of the richest soils to the streams and loads the streams with silt. This rapid runoff swells the streams to flood stages which will cover the low ground along the banks of the rivers. Towns and industries are pouring large quantities of untreated wastes into the streams thus causing the problem of pollution.

Fresh, clean water is important even to the pigeons which flock around the fountains in city parks. This photograph was taken at the fountain just east of North Carolina State Capitol.

During the drought periods the flow of the streams is greatly reduced and some actually dry up. All vegetation becomes dry and much of it dies. The deer, rabbit, duck, geese and other other animals must find other feeding grounds or starve. Since all vegetation is dry there is a constant threat of fire costing the lives of many of the wildlife family as well as destroying their breeding grounds, food and cover. Fish are killed by fire as trees will fall across the stream causing pools to form above them. These pools will then collect drift and ashes from the burnt over area which will deplete the oxygen in the water. Others may suffer from the water being heated too much for their existence. The mere reduction of the flow of the stream during a drought will cost the life of many fish as the banks and parts of the bottom will become exposed to the air causing large quantities of the aquatic vegetation to die and thus reduce the food for fish.

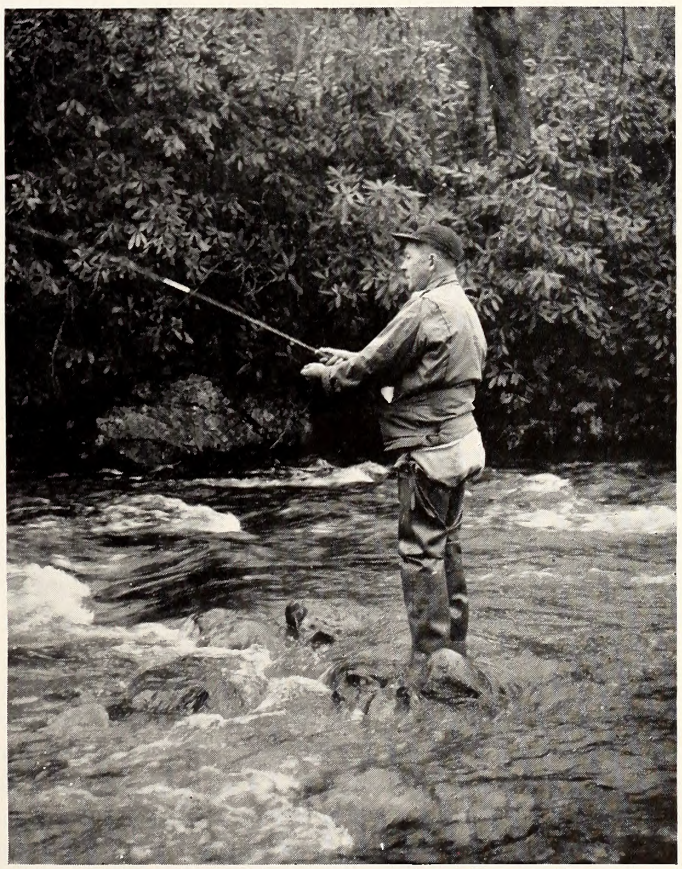
Floods can be as big a hazard as droughts to wildlife. Heavy rains falling on a watershed will cause the stream to swell until the low ground will become covered with water. This water could easily carry harmful bacteria which will be deposited on the vegetation and as a result a whole herd of deer may be wiped out. Vegetation may be hurt and possibly destroyed by being covered with water for several days or it may be buried under a load of silt and mud. Even such small game as quail and rabbits are driven from the river banks that furnish cover as a protection, to higher ground where they become easy prey for hunter or other enemies. Floods are always accompanied by a greatly increased velocity in the flow of streams. This increase of velocity will scour or wash the aquatic vegetation from the bottom and sides of streams and may even wash away some of the vegetation from the low grounds. With food gone from their usual habitats game will have to seek another place to live.

Pollution is also a serious hazard to wildlife. Fish and semi-aquatic animals are destroyed by poisoning, depletion of oxygen or the destroying of food supply. Some waste from civilization may contain materials that will be toxic to wildlife, others may not be toxic but will remove oxygen from the water, and others may have both. Fish in particular need good water in order to live and multiply. They require a certain amount of oxygen in the water to support their life as well as food. Aquatic plants furnish food for fish and semi-aquatic animals and these plants cannot exist in polluted streams. Fish eggs and fry need good clean water in which to hatch and grow. Other members of the wildlife family also suffer from the pollution of the streams. They require good water mostly for drinking and unless they can find good water the polluted streams will have to be used. Disease may be spread by using this water and result in scarce wildlife or else destroy it completely.

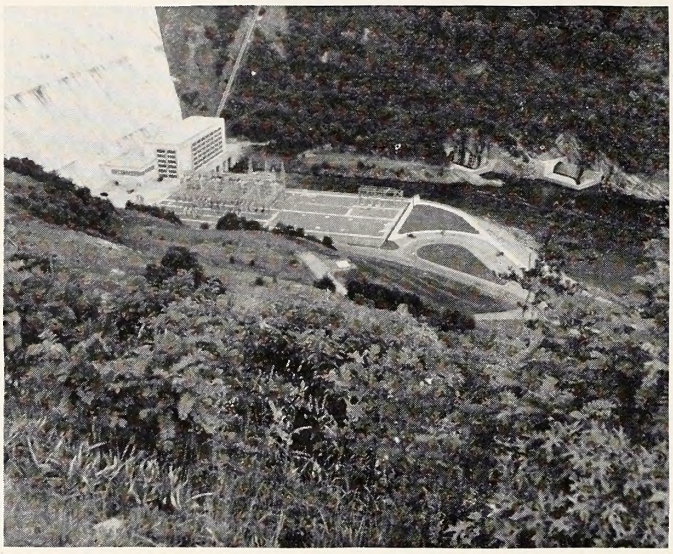
With all the hazards to wildlife as a result of water alone it is a miracle there is any wildlife in existence today. Yet, nature has been good in providing and protecting game in North Carolina. A much better job can be done if man will help nature correct some of the trouble caused mainly by the advance of civilization. The streams of North Carolina can be brought under control only by proper planning, and proper planning can only be done after much study.

The availability of water in any region is not constant nor can it be accurately determined by measurements over a season or a few years. The immediate source of all water is precipitation from the clouds. This precipitation is erratic and varies widely in both distribution upon the surface of the earth and from year to year. Since precipitation varies, periods of flood and drought must necessarily follow. These naturally result in wide fluctuation of the streams which will be harmful to wildlife as well as mankind. With proper control these waters can be stored during periods of heavy rainful and released during periods of drought and thus keep the stream at almost a constant stage. The Tennessee Valley Authority has done an excellent job in regulating the flow of some of the streams in Tennessee Valley.

Even with the streams regulated to have a constant stage, all the conditions to help wildlife will



Trout fishing, the favorite sport of thousands of Tarheel anglers, would be impossible without cool, unpolluted water.



Dams such as this one provide water power for electricity and an abundance of fishing in the waters impounded above.

not be met. With forests being depleted, fields not being properly cultivated, and wastes from civilization being placed in the rivers and streams, wildlife is having a difficult time trying to survive. Civilization must continue to move forward, but by planning it will not be necessary to spoil the water and reduce wildlife. The forests can be replanted, fields can be cultivated so that soil will not be carried away and the wastes from civilization can be treated.

Accurate data must be collected in order to work out a plan to control the streams. Unless this accurate data is available proper structures cannot be built to regulate the flow or determine the amount of silt and waste that can be carried by a stream. Stream flow must be determined over a long period in order to secure the maximum, minimum and average flow of a stream. By determining these flows a structure can be made that will properly store all the water falling in flood periods and releasing them during drought periods. A short record is very misleading as it might have been made during either a dry or wet period and a structure designed on this data will be either too small or too large.

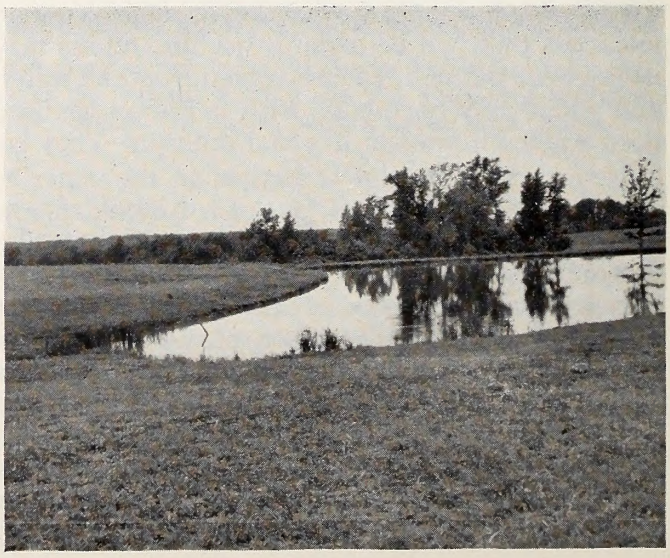
The streams perform a dual purpose of furnishing a supply of water and carrying away the wastes of civilization. This last purpose is natural as it is the easiest and most economical method of disposing of these wastes. These wastes should be properly treated so that they will not be harmful to the receiving stream. Here again much study will be required. At the present time very little is known about the methods of treating some of these wastes but by careful study a method can be found. Stream flow is also essential in planning this work. The stream itself can carry a certain load and still not be seriously injured in its function of supplying water. This point must be determined to know how much treatment will be required.

Civilization has everything to gain and nothing to lose by controlling the streams of North Carolina for the benefit of wildlife. By flood control the maximum flow of a stream can be greatly reduced and minimum flow can be greatly increased. This assures a constant supply at all times which will greatly benefit fish and game as well as mankind. At the present time some of the streams have a very high maximum flow, but the minimum flow is too small to be of much use. By increasing this minimum flow these streams can be put into service and help civilization move forward. Dams will have to be constructed to hold the heavy rainfall during flood season. This would make a wonderful opportunity to generate power and thus be a big help in developing North Carolina.

Proper cultivation and forestry programs would greatly benefit all the citizens of North Carolina. It would not only keep the streams cleaner but would also keep the most valuable soil where it would grow crops for food and furnish a steady supply of wood. Each year a large quantity of this soil is being carried away in the streams of the State and deposited behind dams or carried on to the sea. This soil is much more valuable on the land than it could ever be behind the dams. As a matter of fact this soil is a loss when deposited behind a dam due to the fact that the capacity of the lake is being reduced and thus power is being lost.

Stream pollution is a hazard to civilization as well as to wildlife. Some of the streams in North Carolina could be made of use to manufacturers and other users of water were it not for the fact that man has so polluted the stream that it is not fit for man or beast. So often a town or an industry will put its raw waste in a stream and ruin it for some use by some town or industry below.

Civilization as well as wildlife needs the streams in North Carolina if either go forward. By careful planning great benefit can be derived from the streams and wildlife of North Carolina.



NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE

RESOURCE-O-GRAM

A ROUNDUP OF THE LATEST WILDLIFE NEWS

AT ITS MOST RECENT MEETING THE NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION APPROVED A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1 WHICH TOTALS $1,441,409.00 IN TOTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE'S WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM. ESTIMATED RECEIPTS FOR THE SAME FISCAL YEAR ARE PLACED AT $1,830,500.00, WITH AN ESTIMATED CREDIT BALANCE OF $419,091.00. THIS IS THE LARGEST BUDGET AND THE LARGEST ESTIMATED FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA'S WILDLIFE AGENCIES. THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IS NOT SUPPORTED BY TAXATION, BUT OPERATES FROM FUNDS SECURED THROUGH THE SALE OF LICENSES, SPECIAL FEES, AND MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE FDERAL GOVERNMENT UNDER THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON ACT.

THE SYSTEM OF SETTING UP TENTATIVE HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS AND SUBMITTING THESE REGULATIONS TO MEETINGS OF SPORTSMEN IS CONSIDERED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BY THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION. THE PLAN WAS CARRIED ON FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SUMMER, AND ONLY A FEW MINOR CHANGES WERE ADVOCATED AT THE HEARINGS HELD IN EACH OF THE NINE COMMISSION DISTRICTS.

THE MONTH OF APRIL TOPPED ALL PREVIOUS MONTHS IN THE NUMBER OF COURT PROSECUTIONS FOR INFRACTIONS OF FISH AND GAME LAWS AND REGULATIONS—BUT THE MONTH OF MAY BROUGHT AN EVEN HIGHER FIGURE TO SET AN ALL-TIME RECORD. MOST OF THE VIOLATIONS INVOLVED FISHING WITHOUT LICENSES. AND FISH AND GAME PROTECTORS THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CRACK DOWN EVEN MORE FIRMLY ON THIS AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF VIOLATIONS.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION OF THE WILDLIFE COMMISSION WILL EXPAND ITS WILDLIFE PATROL FORCE WITH THE ADDITION OF THREE PATROLMEN TO THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MOBILE UNIT. IN ADDITION TO THE THREE WILDLIFE PATROLMEN, THE DIVISION PLANS TO EMPLOY A TRAINING OFFICER TO FURTHER STREAMLINE AND EXPEDITE LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK. AT THE PRESS TIME THE ONLY VACANCIES EXISTING IN THE ENFORCEMENT STAFF ARE THE FOUR NEWLY CREATED POSITIONS.

THE BUDGET FOR THE COMMISSION'S EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY DIVISION WAS MORE THAN FOR THE 1949-1950 FISCAL YEAR. THE DIVISION PLANS TO EMPLOY THREE ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY SPECIALISTS AT SALARIES RANGING FROM $3240.00 TO 4320.00. A CONSIDERABLE FUND HAS BEEN SET UP FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MOTION PICTURES ON NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND TO EXPAND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

TWO IMPORTANT MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE THIS FALL AT THE CAROLINIAN HOTEL IN NAGS HEAD. THE ANNUAL STATE MEETING OF THE NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 30 AND 31, AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHEASTERN GAME COMMISSIONERS WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 31 AND CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER 2. THESE TWO EVENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO ALL NORTH CAROLINA SPORTSMEN. AND A LARGE ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED. PROGRAMS FOR BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

More than three hundred Rocky Mount youngsters were treated to a three-weeks' fisheree . . .

James Ezzell (above
to go fishing—succes

Competition for prizes made "weighing in" necessary . . .

KIDS' F

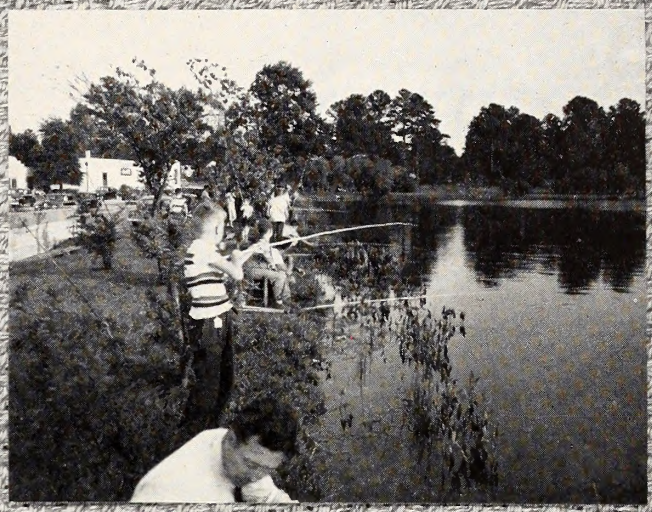
A PHOT

Win

(Layout by R

Sportsman Bill Joyner, of Rocky Mount, worked with the Junior Chamber of Commerce to make the fisheree highly successful. His daughter Ellen shows a two-foot eel (below) and Henry Rose displays a bass.

The city of Rocky Mount will h
delinquency as long as Sunset L
youngsters. The Rocky Mount J
City Recreation department coop
Club to hold a three-week fishi
Present plans calls for leaving th
under sixteen years of age.



. . . at the city's Sunset Lake which is well-stocked with fish of several species including bass and bluegills.

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y.

SHEREE
SERIES

onat

Amundson)

Robert Gay (with hand on pan) won a prize in his age-group for his catch.

Mrs. Fairy L. Bandy (above right) is the Rocky Mount City Recreation Director, and is due much credit for the success of the fisheree. Bobby Carr (left below) and Donald Capps are proud of their catches, a bass and a bluegill.

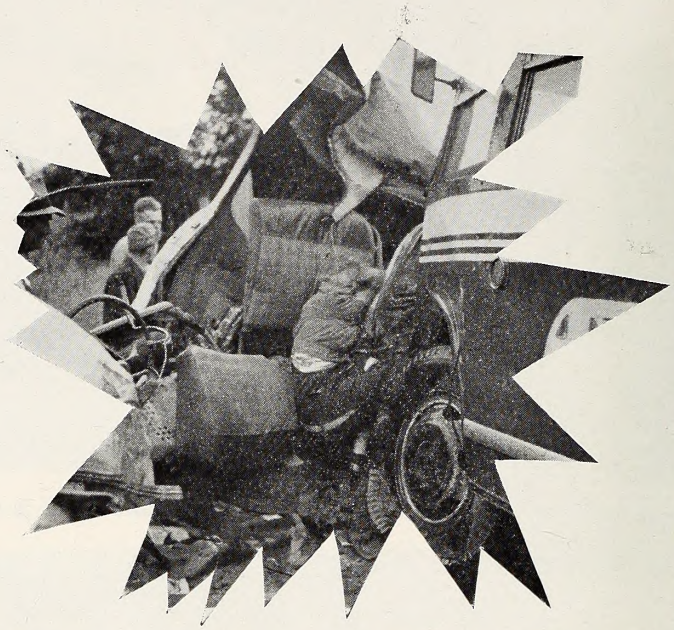
little need to worry about juvenile
is opened to fishing for the city's
or Chamber of Commerce and the
ed with the Nash County Wildlife
outing for the town's youngsters.
ake open to fishing for youngsters

PLAY IT

Safe!

Some tips on keeping your vacation from ending in a cemetery

An Editorial—



This vacation ended in stark tragedy due to careless driving.

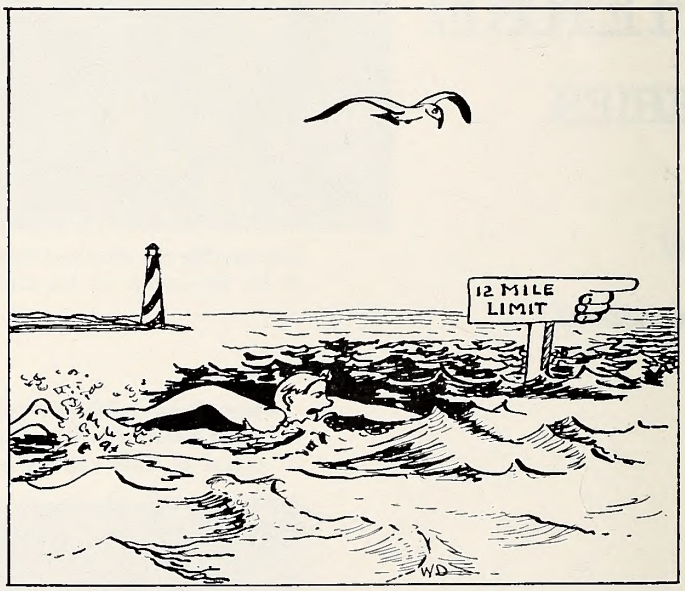
THE odds are pretty good that you will return from your vacation this summer rested, relaxed, and raring to go back to work. But the chances are fairly good that you will come back on an ambulance stretcher, or worse still, feet first in a long, rectangular wicker basket. It all depends on circumstances—and common sense.

Vacations were designed for recuperation from the rigors of the past year's labors. People tire of the weary, daily grind, and those with enough money left over from taxes or the high cost of living will take to the open road, the mountains, the beaches, and the lakes and streams. The summer of 1949 promises to be one of the biggest (and most expensive, both in money and human life) in history.

At the risk of making like a wet blanket, we are going to point out some things that happen every year to thousands of vacationists—and try to redeem ourselves by pouring out several ounces of prevention.

Number one hazard to vacationists is highway traffic. You know the odds against you on a motor trip. The subject of traffic safety has been harped on for years and years, yet the frequency of highway fatalities continues to increase at about the same rate as the number of vehicles and numbskull drivers increase on the highway. Suffice it to say that there are enough hazards waiting for you at your vacation destination without inviting further calamity on the highway. DRIVE CAREFULLY!

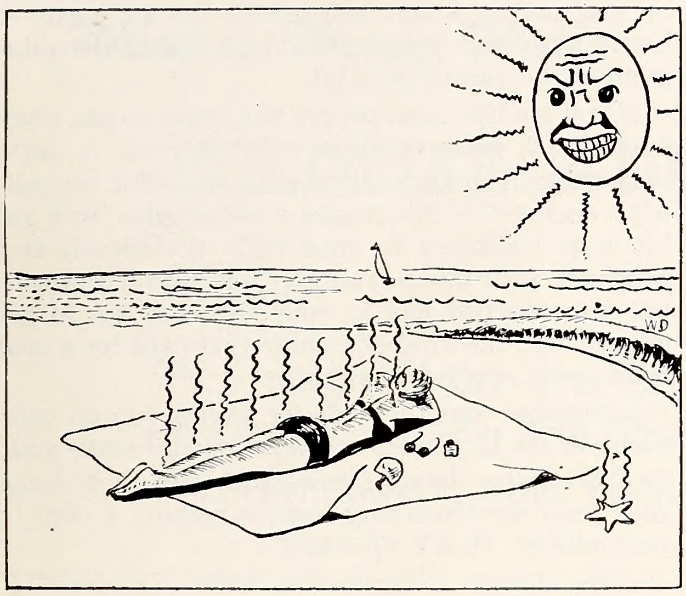
No matter whether your summertime wanderings take you to the mountains or the seashore, you can save yourself a lot of grief by taking a few precautions. Vacations have become almost synonymous with water sport of one kind or another. About 100 North Carolinians are going to drown this summer in some sort of a water mishap. These simple precautions, if observed, will help you to outlive your relatives:



If you can swim, don't overdo it.

1. If you can't swim, learn; otherwise, stay away from deep water.
2. If you can swim, don't go beyond your depth or capacity for endurance.
3. If you go boating, be sure that there are plenty of life preservers aboard; don't over-load the boat, and don't try to use a rowboat for a yacht.
4. If you go camping, be sure that the water you drink is pure.

Highway accidents and water accidents will account for most vacation fatalities this summer, but there are a number of other matters to consider which, although rarely fatal, can ruin the best-



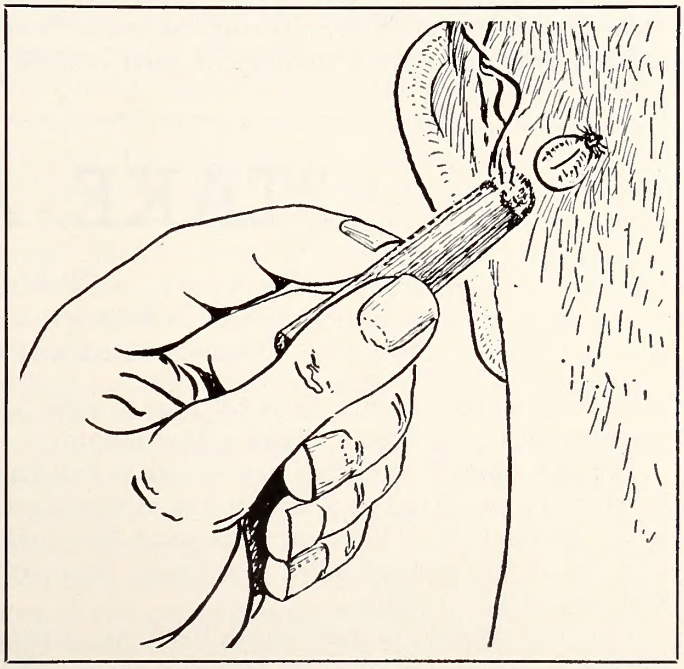
A suntan, like an education, must be acquired in small doses. Don't try to get your tan in a single afternoon.

planned vacation. Number one is sunburn. If you use good common sense, you can return from the lake or the seashore as tanned as the lifeguard on the beach. Or you can drag yourself back to work looking like a rare steak, depending on how you take your sunshine. Suntan, like an education, is something to be acquired slowly and in small doses. If you happen to be of fair complexion, it is likely that your skin can never become tanned to the color of saddle leather. You will save yourself considerable pain by realizing this and taking your sun with caution. Dark-skinned persons tan more readily than blondes, but dark-complexioned people can sunburn just as painfully. No matter what your complexion, start your suntan slowly, in a series of short periods. Don't stay out in the sun just because your skin still looks white. Severe cases of sunburn do not usually become painful until sundown. If you have ever spent a night pacing the floor and rubbing lotion (too late) on a sizzling skin, you know what we mean. Suntan lotions are good for getting an even tan, but *they do not prevent sunburn!* Read the directions on the bottle, especially the part which says "avoid over-exposure to sunshine." Don't forget that you can get just as painfully sunburned on a fishing trip as you can on the beach. The reflection of rays from the water speeds up the action of the sun in producing painful effects.

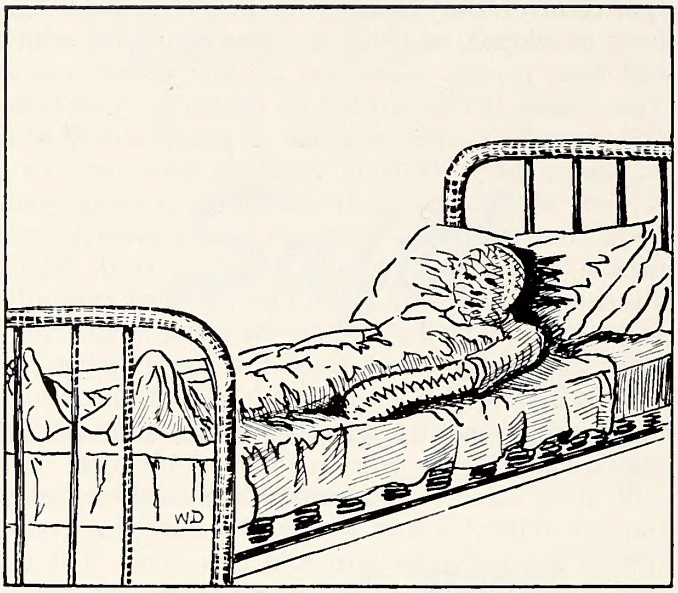
There are other hazards in connection with water which can become annoying if not downright dangerous. Mosquitoes. There are a number of good mosquito repellents on the market. Select a good one and use plenty of it. Malaria fever is a tenacious disease, and will result in a lot of lost time from your job.

A number of years ago the medical profession identified a horrible disease called Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Only recently has anything like a cure been developed, and this is a new antibiotic which has been proven successful in only twenty cases. The disease is transmitted by ordinary wood ticks, and cases have been reported in nearly every state in the country. If your vacation takes you to a wooded section, be on the alert for ticks on your body. Give yourself a thorough examination at least once a day. Crush or burn crawling ticks. Those attached to your skin should be removed carefully. Don't pull a tick off your body by brute force—more often than not you will leave the jagged snout embedded in your skin to cause infection. Hold a glowing cigarette or the head of a recently-extinguished match close to the posterior end of the tick. This will make him so uncomfortable he will extricate himself under his own power. Disinfect the wound with a good disinfectant, and then pray that the tick was not carrying the spotted fever organism.

Wanderers in the wilderness stand a good chance of encountering one of three types of poisonous snakes native to North Carolina. There are rattlesnakes (at least three kinds), copperheads, and cottonmouth water moccasins. Undoubtedly more people are kicked to death annually by mules than die of snakebite; nevertheless, the latter is undoubtedly a more lingering and painful ordeal. Be on the lookout for snakes, especially around water. If you go tramping through a swamp or in grassy areas, wear some type of boot which cannot be penetrated by fangs. Don't put your hands or head into a situation which might prove to be the lair of a snake. If you should be unfortunate enough to be bitten, try not to become hysterical. Tie a tourniquet *between* the bite and your heart. Open the



Remove wood ticks in the manner shown above. Pulling them off may leave the snout under your skin to cause infection. Do not hold ember too close to skin—for obvious reasons.



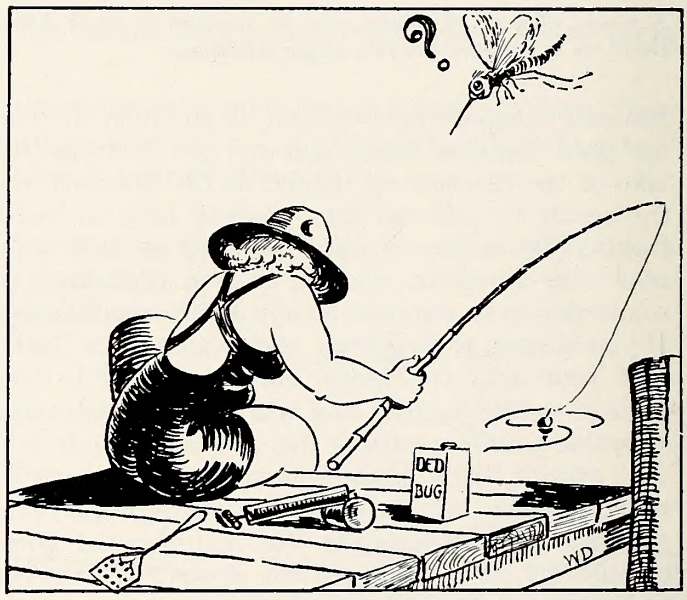
Stay away from poison ivy, or if exposed to it, use a good lotion.

bite wound with a knife or any other reasonably sharp object, and get it to bleed. If you can't reach the spot with your own mouth, get someone else to draw as much blood from the wound as possible—as quickly as possible. Summon the nearest physician or health officer to procure antivenom equipment. Remember that whiskey is not a cure for snake bite. The best it can do is speed up circulation (and spread the venom) and increase the danger of secondary infection. Keep snakes in mind in the first place, and the foregoing sanguine procedure will not be necessary.

Next to sunburn, poison ivy and poison oak are the most frequent hazards to vacationers. If you are allergic to either type of irritant, you owe it to yourself to identify the plants concerned and avoid them. Should you unknowingly come in contact with either plant, there are a number of good remedies on the market which will relieve the suffering. A bottle of such a potion should be standard equipment in the vacationer's kit.

If you are like most people who want to get away from it all, your vacation will take you to parts where telephones are not readily accessible for calling a doctor. For this reason a well-stocked first aid kit is as necessary to your daily life as salt and pepper to your meals. You may not need it yourself, but some darned fool in your crowd is apt to get himself into the kind of trouble that calls for a cool head and a ready first aid kit.

Remember that the odds for having fun on your vacation are in your favor. But you can make your own breaks by being forewarned, and then using your head for something besides making a dent in your pillow. PLAY IT SAFE!



There are plenty of mosquito repellents on the market. Get a good one and use it liberally.

"TAKE A BOY..."

By Frank Dufresne
Director of Public Relations
Fish and Wildlife Service

In recognition of grim facts I'd like to offer an amendment to the slogan "Take a Boy Fishing."

You see, I don't think that boy—even as you and I—needs to be coaxed on a fishing trip. All he needs is the opportunity. All he needs is some assurance that we of the present adult generation have left him something to catch.

That boy doesn't, in most cases, need our urging to take to the open as much as he needs clean, fruitful waters. What he really needs from us is a heritage of fish and wildlife as good as that which was handed down to us in our own teens.

So let's not delude ourselves, let's not duck our responsibilities, simply by taking a boy fishing. We owe the boy a lot more than that. We owe him our loyalty to every agency that is trying to restore some of the recreation ruined in our own time. We owe him time and effort devoted to building back the stockpile of fish and game into which we have so deeply cut.

"Take a Boy Fishing?" Of course. But play fair with the youngster. Show him something to catch.

What is Wrong With

WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION?

By Ira N. Gabrielson

A Straight-from-the-Shoulder Discussion of the Problems Facing the Men Who Are Responsible for Administering the Task of Wildlife Conservation

THE query, "What is wrong with wildlife administration?" is usually aimed at State wildlife departments since, with the exception of migratory birds and a few special areas such as national parks, the states have the responsibility for the most important wildlife resources.

If State administration is examined in the light of the ideal activities needed to do an adequate job of protecting this resources, it must be admitted that the picture is not good. If it is examined in retrospect against the conditions that prevailed 20 or 30 years ago, it is obvious that definite progress has been made in many states and that administration generally will average considerably better than it did in those conservation dark ages.

Whether it is improving fast enough to keep pace with the increasing complexities of preserving wildlife in the face of a growing human population and a consequent increasing intensity of land use and a growing army of hunters and fishermen who desire, usually vociferously, to utilize the wildlife resources, is a moot question. If the standards of all State administrations could be raised to equal those of the half dozen states doing the best job, we would indeed have a potent force for improving the chances of maintaining wildlife populations. Those states with the poorest departments lack almost every needed authority, as well as adequate policies, information and programs. Some of the better ones lack few of the basic attributes but do lack edequate resources to do the major job in the face of increasing human pressure on wildlife.

What are the chief defects in current State game administrations? Politics would unquestionably head the list. While there has been some improvement, it is still regrettably true that in more than half the states the wildlife departments and funds are at the mercy of partisan and personal politics. In relatively few states is adequate protection provided for either the personnel or funds. A clear distinction should be made between the use of conservation funds and positions to pay personal political debts or to give partisan rewards to political workers, and the politics and controversies that may arise over conservation policies and program themselves. As long as America has a democratic form of government, differences over the relative value of programs and ideas are bound to occur. There is, however, no excuse whatever to use conservation funds and departments for personal and partisan politics. That the people can defeat this use of conservation programs has been demonstrated in enough states to prove the case. Whenever the sportsmen and conservationists of any state get sufficiently aroused, conservation agencies can be placed above such use and kept there so long as public opinion demands it.

The wrong kind of politics has unquestionably been the cause of more waste of both funds and effort in conservation than any other single factor. It causes waste even when there is a desire not to waste by a constant shifting of programs and personnel before any effort that can affect living things can become really effective. Whenever a conservation department suddenly and without adequate reason changes direction or personnel, or both, much of the previous effort has been lost. Regardless of the merit and character of the new men, each has to learn the job over and become acquainted with the problems before efficient conduct of a state-wide program can be effected. A good wildlife program requires continuity of effort and personnel to have a chance to succeed. It is not likely to have either under the kind of political administration that still prevails in more than half of the states.

One of the further bad results of such a political system is that a comparatively small number of states and a few national conservation organizations have a tendency to corral the best men. The most successful states have a tendency to secure the best-trained and most experienced men and to keep them long enough to get new value from their services as their knowledge of local problems grows. It is true that there are good men in other states, but an examination will too often disclose that most of

them fall into one of two categories. Either such employees have personal reasons or personal obilgations, which usually are not connected with their jobs, that constrain them to remain, or they have not as yet attracted sufficient attention to be offered more attractive employment. As fast as good men develop, they are snapped up by agencies able to offer more attractive employment conditions and greater opportunities to do a real job.

Sportsmen's pressure is almost surely the second most potent factor in poor game administration. Intelligent sportsmen have been responsible for most of the good administration there is today—and too often for much of the bad. Sportsmen's groups are too often ignorant, even if they are enthusiastic. They are frequently led by silver-tongued but leather-headed leaders who know little more of the needs of wildlife species than what may be learned from looking down a gun barrel or handling a fishing rod. Sportsmen's groups, by organizing pressure to secure unwise privileges and to cause the adoption of unsound programs, have been responsible for an appalling waste of conservation funds and effort.

The most common form of this waste is sportsmen's pressure for greater and more liberal harvesting privileges than the condition of the stocks will allow. This frequently results in a relatively gameless or fishless territory for some years. On the other hand, sportsmen's prejudices against harvesting doe deer, for example, have been responsible for major catastrophes to deer herds; and the resistance to adequate kill of excessive pheasant populations has caused considerable tension between farmers and sportsmen. Too few sportsmen realize that it is good management to preserve all female stocks when it is necessary to build a game population but foolish to continue the practice when the stocks have reached the maximum carrying capacity of their ranges or when the stocks are so great that they arouse prejudice among agricultural groups. The latter situation certainly existed in South Dakota during the height of the pheasant population in that state and was responsible for many prejudices against pheasants and for many actions on the part of landowners inimical to pheasants—and hunters—which are all too apt to continue for years.

Too much game in an agricultural country can be as troublesome to the sportsman's permanent interest as too little game. Too many grazing-browsing game animals, such as deer or elk, can not only cause conflict with other interests but destroy their own food plants and make it impossible to rebuild the herds for years following an eat-out and a starvation reduction of the herd.

Another great waste has come from sportsmen's pressure for artifical propagation and restocking programs. Most checks made on the results of stocking efforts indicate such a low percentage of survival and such a low percentage of this game turning up in sportsmen's bags as to render the cost prohibitive. Even if a game bird stocking program were, for instance,almost 100 per cent successful, the cost of stocking would be still so great in view of present license fees that it is an entirely uneconomic program and one that if carried to its logical extreme can only bankrupt conservation departments. There is a place for stocking programs, but propagated stocks should usually be released only to restock territory that has good range suitable for that species and which has no existing populations.

Predator control is another favorite phobia of sportsmen. Predator control is often necessary and desirable, but too many sportsmen's clubs react to all decreases in game populations by demanding state-wide bounties on predators, to be paid from conservation funds. Such an outlay always results in waste. It pays for the killing of animals that would be killed anyway, either for fur or about farms, and, perhaps more important, it does not center the control expenditures and efforts at the point where predators are a real factor in holding down the populations of more desirable species. These examples and similar ill-advised demands upon conservation funds have resulted in more waste of funds and effort, probably, than any other single factor except the political one previously mentioned.

Lack of adequate authority to manage the wildlife harvest is another and perhaps the third most important factor in producing poor game administration. One by one, State legislatures have been convinced of the impossibility of managing the wildlife harvest by a lawmaking body which meets only every two years, and furthermore has a multitude of varied problems, most of which are considered much more pressing, before it. No legislature is able to give any real consideration to more than the broad outline of a wildlife management program. Every state game department needs the authority to open and close seasons, to control bag limits, and to make such other regulations as are necessary to limit the harvest taken each year. The allowable safe harvest is bound to vary as a result of many factors and no rigid legislation can possibly meet the problems that come each season. Either the harvest will be too great, which will mean a poor crop for one or more succeeding years, or it will be less than might have been possible under flexible regulations. About half the state game departments still need some part of this adequate authority. A few have complete authority to make such regulations. There are others that do have adequate authority to do a reasonable job of harvesting their game crop but many of them are still hampered by local and often conflicting laws that make a good job impossible, no matter how competent the staff.

There are many other factors that contribute to poor wildlife administration. Inadequate knowledge of game conditions is still one of the most common

ones. There are still few states that have enough trained men on their staffs to gather the necessary information promptly, and promptness and accuracy of information are more necessary than ever before because of increasing hunting and fishing demand that comes from a constantly growing army of license buyers. Trained men are needed to determine the size of the wildlife crop each year, how much breeding stock is necessary to carry over in order to insure an adequate supply next year, and where and when the harvest can safely be made. There are few states that have complete adequate information on these factors and too many that still make regulations largely on the basis of political logrolling in legislatures or because of sportsmen's pressure on the administrators, who may have authority but no sound knowledge on which to base and defend their decisions. When the facts are available from which sound regulations can be made, it is necessary to have an adequate staff to enforce the regulations. Without enforcement, the best information and regulations are useless as a method of maintaining wildlife populations.

Another potent factor in poor wildlife administration is lack of attention to essentials. For example, many state departments pay little attention to pollution of their waters. Some have no authority to force pollution abatement. As a result, too much time and effort—not to mention money—are spent in raising fish to dump into waters where they cannot survive, and in arguing with sportsmen's groups over the size limits and bag limits, and too little in providing water in which fish can live and grow. The same is true of many game problems. Too few states are engaged in large-scale habitat protection and restoration programs. It is increasingly common knowledge that habitat improvement and habitat protection are in the long run the best possible means yet discovered to produce game year after year. Too many states are like small boys going swimming for the first time, dabbling their toes in the water rather than really getting into the job.

The majority of the states have paid too little attention to education of the public. While the administrators may know their basic problems, few of them have adequate information staffs or adequate ways of placing wildlife information before the public. Too much of the over-all educational effort is devoted to those who are already informed and too little in getting information to those who need to be informed. This criticism is more or less true of practically every conservation organization. Many departments are developing increasingly good information programs for sportsmen's groups, but few have made any sustained effort to get their problems before the much greater number of non-license buyers. Few are making specific efforts to reach the people on the land, or the children in the schools, although both groups are vitally important in any sane program of maintaining the wildlife resource.

When the basic factors that goven the production of wildlife in this country are considered, there is not too much cause for optimism. There is a constantly growing population on this continent. This is not true in all communities since there are areas where human population is receding, but for the continent as a whole, more and more people will inevitably require more intensive use of land for human activities. This means a constantly decreasing habitat capable of producing wildlife. There is also a constantly increasing number of people who want to participate in the wildlife-resource harvest. So the problem becomes constantly more acute. A wildlife administrator does not have a happy lot. Even though he doubles the production of game in a given area, it avails little if the number of hunters doubles at the same time. There are no more pieces of game per individual than before and, consequently, there is no visible evidence of results of his work.

When an outstanding game job cannot increase the visible game, and goes without appreciation from the hunters, what chance has an understaffed department with inadequate authority? Wildlife loses ground in spite of everything it can do, and it is held responsible for the apparent decline.

These various failures in wildlife administration are serious. As the hunting and fishing populations grow, inadequate controls of harvests, inadequately enforced, will bring increasingly serious effects.

There is only one present answer to this problem and that is for interested sportsmen to become so thoroughly organized that they can force the removal of these handicaps to the best possible utilization of our wildlife resources. It has been demonstrated over and over again that conservation forces, when aroused, can take personal and partisan politics out of conservation organization. Politics can be kept out so long as a vigilant public opinion is present. But one thing is certain. Those politicians who like to pay their political debts with someone else's money are at it 24 hours a day. They will be chiseling in again as soon as vigilance is relaxed, no matter how perfect the legal setup may be.

There have been many instances where well-staffed and adequately informed conservation departments have rallied sufficient sportsman and conservation support to resist the pressures for unsound measures brought by less informed hunting and fishing groups. This is a function that only intelligent sportsmen's organizations can perform, but one that is vitally necessary if public hunting and fishing is to continue. Sportsmen's groups, sufficiently aroused, have demonstrated many times that they can secure sound legislation on which a good program can be built. If, as sometimes happens, the politicians are able to block them for a time, there are ways to beat them. Missouri demon-

strated one of those ways. Here, a popular sportsmen's uprising, led by farsighted sportsmen, used the initiative to put into the constitution the present legal basis for the state conservation department. This is basically the best of any state setup and was made possible only by the fact that the legislature year after year stupidly refused to grant even moderate reforms in one of the worst conservation administration systems that existed at the time. When the pressure built up high enough, it was possible to set up a new conservation program in such a way that the legislature cannot now interfere. Only by a vote of the people can this law be repealed.

Sportsmen's groups can do the greatest service to their own interests and to the interests of America by insisting that their state conservation department be free from partisan and personal political interference, that it have adequate authority, that it resist ignorant pressures from hunting and fishing groups, that it have an adequate law enforcement staff, adequate personnel to make accurate inventory of game stocks each season and trained research men to work on its problems, that it have a sound educational program, and that it devote its funds to sound basic work to produce more fish and wildlife.

Sportsmen have every right to demand this kind of a program. Once they get it, they should fight to see that personalities, selfishness, and greed do not interfere with that program. In other words, a conservation department that is doing a good job should be backed even if sportsmen do not like the way the commissioners wear their hair or the way the wardens drive their cars.

Too much personal prejudice has entered into the conservation picture in the past. The things that are needed in the state departments are a sound program, good personnel and solid public support. If it were possible to have an organization with these qualities in each of the 48 states, we would have a greater impetus for better hunting and fishing and greater insurance for the future of wildlife than any conservation step ever taken.

(Dr. Gabrielson, who is president of the Wildlife Management Institute, is a former director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.—Ed.)

QUAIL RELEASED IN LINCOLN COUNTY

By Ralf Lineberger

The Lincoln County Wildlife Club released fifty-two pairs of quail in Lincoln County in April. The quail were paid for by members of the club that were interested in this part of the program. Only members that were interested in quail hunting were asked to contribute to the fund. The quail were purchased at a cost of $300.00.

The club used the same method that was used last year in the release. What is known as the planting system. Placing a pair of birds in a ventilated box that has a door that can be torn off after the box has been placed in cover and near a good feeding place. The birds come out slowly and make the cover their home. Plenty of food is, of course, thrown about on the ground.

The club bought bands and banded each bird in order that they might run a test on them. They will this fall ask that hunters shooting any of the birds report same to the club.

Good cover and food were first located before a release was made. In carrying out this program the club hopes to find out a little about whether they will survive and propagate or not.

MECKLENBURG WILDLIFE CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS

At the annual meeting of the Mecklenburg Wildlife Club, Inc., the following were elected to serve for the year 1949-1950:

J. S. Mitchell, President
C. W. Todd, 1st Vice President
Frank Black, 2nd Vice President
J. M. DeLaney, 3rd Vice President
Frank Gilreath, 4th Vice President
Robert R. Rhyne, Secretary-Treasurer
W. M. Sloan, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

We still want news of wildlife club activity, and express our gratitude to club officers who have been sending in material.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!! HOW ABOUT IT??

IS IT TRUE?? HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO —

GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!

EDITORIAL COMMENT, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ANECDOTES

Conducted by Win Donat

There is an excellent batch of questions in for this issue, and it is gratifying to know that reader interest is growing. So far we have not heard anything from folks who may have caught shad on artificial bait, although I do happen to know that the run in the streams near Raleigh has not been sufficiently heavy to warrant much time being spent fishing for them. However, just because school will be out soon and vacations under way, please don't forget us on this page. Your interest and your questions are wanted in order that we can make this one of the best magazines in the business. By the way, don't you have a friend to whom you want us to send a gift subscription?—W. D.

Mr. J. S., Jr., of Asheville, N. C., asks a question which ties our answer to a purely legal type. He wants to know, "Does a landowner have the right to prohibit fishing if a stream runs across his land? In other words, if the land is posted, can the landowner keep fishermen from trespassing on his property?"

Our interpretation of the law passed by the 1949 General Assembly of North Carolina which prohibits hunting or fishing upon the posted lands or waters of another is that when land is posted it is necessary to have the written permission of the owner in order to hunt or fish thereon, with the possible exception that it can hardly be construed to prohibit people from fishing on streams running through private property when such streams could be considered navigable and upon which a person could fish from a boat without setting foot on shore.

Here's a lady with two good questions. Miss N. O. of Raleigh, N. C., asks, "Is it better to skin wild geese or dry pick them?" and "How long will frozen fish last after it has been thawed?"

To the first of these we will say definitely do not skin any wild fowl, particularly as it is so easy to dip them in melted paraffin after the large feathers have been removed, and to let the paraffin cake hard so that when it is peeled off all feathers, pinfeathers, and down are removed as cleanly as though the bird had been shaved. Of course nothing will be as little trouble in the long-run as dry picking one pair of birds, although I use paraffin on a pair or a single goose. When these birds are skinned, the fat which contains most of the flavor and which moistens the meat during baking is removed with the skin.

To the second question we will say that for those people who absolutely must freeze fish, that if possible, fish should be put into the pan while still partially frozen, rather than to take a chance on any delay after the meat has completely thawed. The flesh of fish is so delicate in its balance of food properties that it should be handled very carefully, both in processing before freezing and in storage.

Dr. E. J. W. of Monroe, N. C., compliments the magazine and also asks two questions, the first one of which we would like to have more information. First, "I'd like to know what is the best method of keeping minnows alive for a day or two when we go fishing?" Second, "How do you explain this one: We run foxes here and have plenty of them. Among them there is an old red that the boys who have seen him say is white and red spotted like a Collie..."

As was said before, so many folks are coming up with new ideas as to how to keep minnows alive that the new thoughts seem to indicate a lack of proven methods. While you are using a metal barrel with the side cut out, it is a possibility, if the barrel originally contained tar or oil, that this is killing your bait. We have kept minnows alive for a considerable time by pumping an automobile inner-

tube, attaching a hose to the valve stem, the other end of which was fitted with a homemade gadget which allowed a small stream of air to flow into the water through a baffle which divided the air stream into thousands of small bubbles. If your barrel is clean you might try such a method of providing more air to the water.

As to the fox, I am wondering if the fox that the Doctor mentions is only a red fox with peculiar markings. It is quite possible that either one of two things has occurred. First, that the fox in question might actually be a hybrid and may have had some member of the domestic dog family for an ancestor. It is also possible that the peculiar color markings may have been evidence of a tendency toward albinism, although there is not much evidence to support the possibility of such a thing as an albino red fox.

Mr. J. M. M. of Oxford, N. C., wants to know, "Which is the best rod for bass fishing, the fly rod or bait casting rod?"

The answer to this question is a matter of personal preference, although I would like to suggest that any person who is bitten by the bass fishing bug take both rods with him on every trip, as there are times when one will out-produce the other, thereby saving the day. Observation shows that most people are partial to big, noisy plugs and it is more than possible that frequent exposure to these gadgets could educate the bass to the point that they know the merits of one over the other better than the person using them. The same is not true, however, with respect to fly rod lures. If handled correctly, these are just as capable of catching the largest fish as any of the bait rod variety, and in addition are not as frequently used on heavily fished waters.

Mr. R. E. McD. of Coinjock, N. C., says, "A friend and I have been arguing for several days as to whether or not the shotguns which we call automatics are, strictly speaking, true automatic weapons. I claim that they are merely auto-loading and not automatics. Who is right?"

You are absolutely correct in calling the shotguns which are generally used today auto-loading or semi-automatic, as this type gun fires once with each pull of the trigger where the true automatic will continue to fire until the magazine is empty after the trigger has been pulled the first time and held down.

Mr. A. M. R. of Washington, N. C., asks, "How can I train my retriever puppy so that he will be tender-mouthed and not be too rough on birds? He is 8 weeks old and wants to chew everything he gets his mouth on."

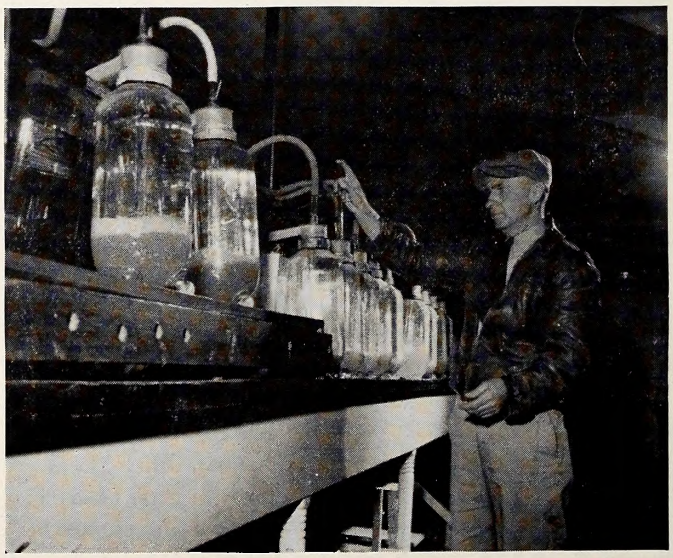
We have found that it is natural for puppies to use their teeth at every available opportunity and perhaps the easiest way to discourage this habit is to pinch the lips between the thumb nail and the forefinger every time the pup attempts to bite your hand. In the course of time this habit may be completely forgotten. Also when training a dog to fetch an object, do not allow him to play with it, but make him deliver it promptly to hand.

Mr. A. R. D. of Charlotte, N. C., asks if there is any general all-purpose hunting dog which is suitable for use on field birds, small game, waterfowl, and cold-scented animals.

While there is to date relatively little information published about the Weimaraner, a relatively recent import from Germany, it is believed that this dog comes as near to filling the all-purpose dog requirements as any other dog. These dogs have remarkable mental ability and after years of very careful breeding the breed was established and has been introduced in this country. Their extremely high price and very few numbers prevent their getting much publicity. However, they will trail coons and opossums as well as hunt game birds and retrieve waterfowl.

Mrs. W. L. L. of Hickory, N. C., asks "Is the fact that my setter dog shakes his head as though something were wrong with her ear a sign that she may have ear trouble?"

No, this is not always an indication that there is something serious the matter with the ear, as it may be only an accumulation of wax or dirt. We suggest that you clean the ear thoroughly with hydrogen peroxide and then insert a few drops of camphorated oil and rub the ear gently. Do this once a day for several days, but if the discomfort continues, we suggest that you have a competent veterinarian examine the dog.



The Wildlife Resources Commission operated the only rockfish hatchery in the world at Weldon this year. Above is a battery of hatching jars.

Ace radio Broadcaster Phil Ellis, of WPTF in Raleigh, consults with Law Enforcement Supervisor Bill Norton, Smithfield, to get material on rock fishing for a nationwide broadcast. Photo by Rod Amundson.

"ROCKIN' ON THE ROANOKE"

North Carolina's famous rockfish run in the Roanoke River received nationwide publicity this summer when Phil Ellis, Radio station WPTF's special events announcer, made an on-the-spot tape recording of fishing activity which was aired on a coast-to-coast network of the National Broadcasting Company. In addition to the news spot on Morgan Beatty's "News of the World", Ellis took his tape recorder in a boat out on the river and recorded the activities of nearly a thousand rockfish anglers who were trying for the silvery beauties. At right are some of the fish taken that day.

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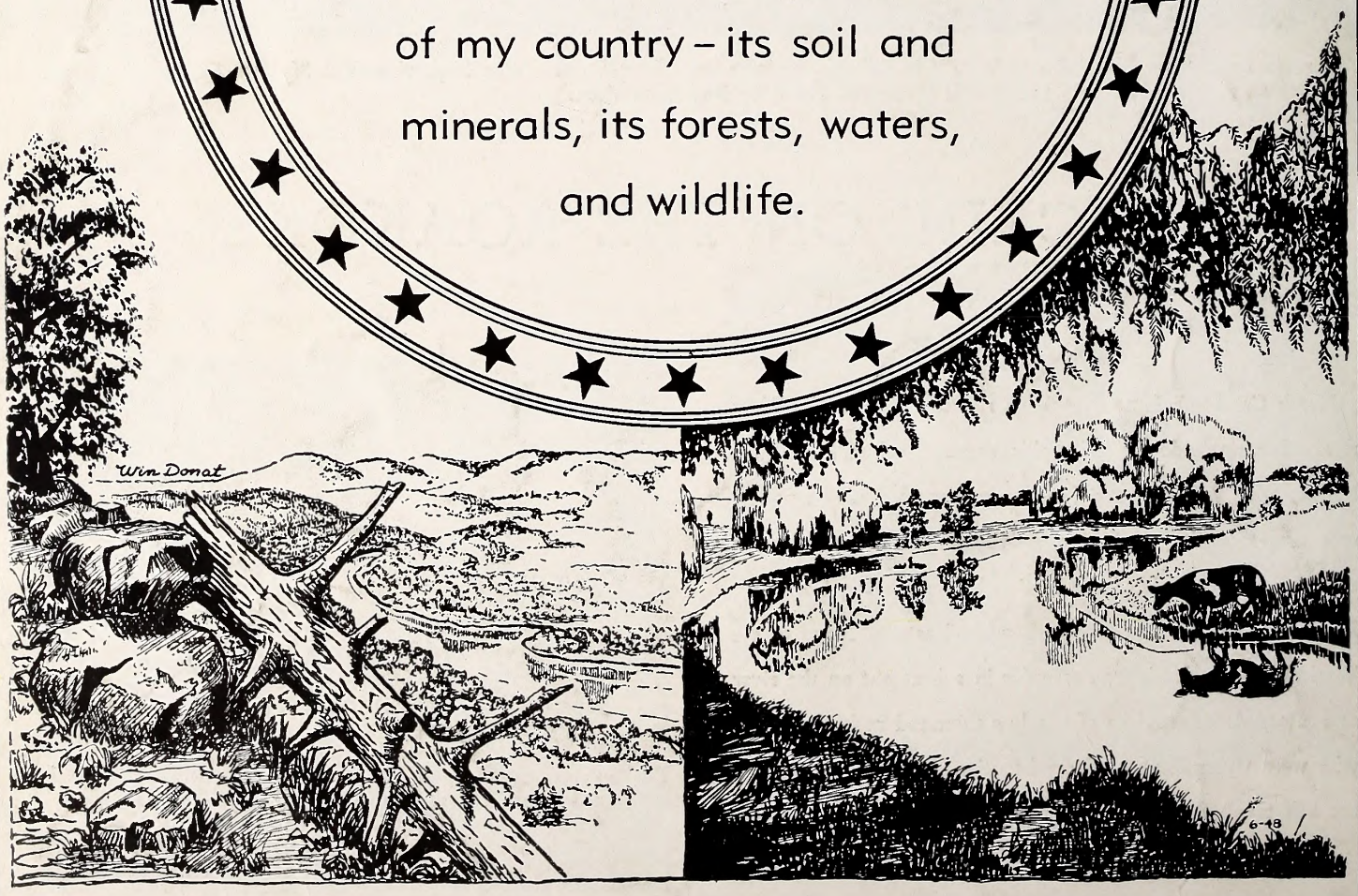

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